

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A conformable veil comprising:
a plurality of fibers having an average length of between approximately 0.5 and 2 meters; and
a polystyrene-based binder applied to said plurality of fibers, said polystyrene-based binder being substantially soluble in a sheet molding compound resin paste.
2. (original) The conformable veil of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers have an average length of between approximately 1 and 2 meters.
3. (original) The conformable veil of claim 2, wherein said polystyrene-based binder comprises approximately 10 percent of the total weight of said conformable veil.
4. (original) The conformable veil of claim 3, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises a plurality of glass fibers.
5. (original) The conformable veil of claim 2, wherein said polystyrene-based binder is formed from a polystyrene-based emulsion in water.
6. (canceled)
7. (original) The conformable veil of claim 2, wherein when said veil is compression molded, said binder is substantially dissolved in a resin, and said veil elongates wherein said plurality of fibers have an average fiber diameter of between approximately 11 and 14 micrometers.

8. (original) The conformable veil of claim 2, wherein said veil, when compression molded, elongates over 50% without any visible holes or tears.

9. (original) The conformable veil of claim 8, wherein said veil, when compression molded, elongates over 100% without any visible holes or tears.

10. (original) The conformable veil of claim 9, wherein said veil, when compression molded, elongates over about 400% without any visible holes or tears.

11.-27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) A conformable veil comprising:

a plurality of fibers having an average length of between approximately 0.5 and 3 meters; and

a polystyrene-based binder applied to said plurality of fibers, said polystyrene-based binder being substantially soluble in a sheet molding compound resin paste.

29. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 28, wherein said plurality of fibers have an average length of between approximately 1 and 2 meters.

30. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 28, wherein said polystyrene-based binder comprises approximately 10 percent of the total weight of said conformable veil.

31. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 28, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises a plurality of glass fibers.

32. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 28, wherein said polystyrene-based binder is formed from a polystyrene-based emulsion in water.

33. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 28, wherein when said veil is compression molded, said binder is substantially dissolved in a resin, and said veil elongates wherein said plurality of fibers have an average fiber diameter of between approximately 11 and 14 micrometers.

34. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 28, wherein said veil, when compression molded, elongates over 50% without any visible holes or tears.

35. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 28, wherein said veil, when compression molded, elongates over 100% without any visible holes or tears.

36. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 28, wherein said veil, when compression molded, elongates over about 400% without any visible holes or tears.

37. (previously presented) A conformable veil comprising:
a plurality of fibers having an average length of between approximately 1 and 3 meters; and
a polystyrene-based binder applied to said plurality of fibers, said polystyrene-based binder being substantially soluble in a sheet molding compound resin paste.

38. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 37, wherein said plurality of fibers have an average length of between approximately 2 and 3 meters.

39. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 37, wherein said polystyrene-based binder comprises approximately 10 percent of the total weight of said conformable veil.

40. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 37, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises a plurality of glass fibers.

41. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 37, wherein said polystyrene-based binder is formed from a polystyrene-based emulsion in water.

42. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 37, wherein when said veil is compression molded, said binder is substantially dissolved in a resin, and said veil elongates wherein said plurality of fibers have an average fiber diameter of between approximately 11 and 14 micrometers.

43. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 37, wherein said veil, when compression molded, elongates over 50% without any visible holes or tears.

44. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 37, wherein said veil, when compression molded, elongates over 100% without any visible holes or tears.

45. (previously presented) The conformable veil of claim 37, wherein said veil, when compression molded, elongates over about 400% without any visible holes or tears.